

MAR 23 1973

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Dear Dr. Appgar,

I saw you today on the Phil Donahue Show and hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to answer a couple questions concerning the Rh factor.

I am Rh negative and my husband is Rh positive. Both my parents supposedly have Rh positive blood - is it possible? I was so surprised to find that mine was negative.

Our first child had Rh pos. blood when she was born and the doctor told us there was no problem. I was given Rhogam after the birth. The baby came 4 weeks early and weighed 7 lbs. 2 1/2 oz. My doctor said she could not be premature (I did not calculate wrong).

Anyway - when she was <sup>3</sup>  
four days old she got jaundice.  
Her bilirubin count went  
dangerously high for seemingly  
no reason. A pediatrician was  
consulted who couldn't figure  
it out but suggested she be  
put under a fluorescent light  
for 2 days. The second day it  
came down slightly and my  
doctor said it would continue  
to come down & we were sent  
home. The only explanation I  
received was that: possibly her  
liver was premature. I would  
like to know what you think  
about it.

Also our second child is  
due May 22. I feel this child  
will most likely be early like  
the first - maybe in April. Should  
this child be checked somehow  
before it is born (the blood)  
even though I received the shot?

The whole matter confuses me and, of course, I want the baby to be healthy and not have jaundice or the Rh disease.

The first baby was born 2 hours from my first pains, which began at 3 minutes apart. Is this healthy - for labor to be so fast? I'm scared this time, because I've heard the second one comes so much faster. I was examined a week before the baby was born and the doctor said I was already 4 centimeters dilated. He just sent me home - no "take it easy" or anything, even though this was a month before the expected due date. I don't want this next baby to be born early if it will get jaundice, too. What should I do?

Thank you so much for  
your time and interest. No  
one else seems to know much  
about my weird pregnancies.

Sincerely,

Ann Tucker

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO

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